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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 10 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note concerning the deplorable massacre of members of the Ashaninka community in the Peruvian Selva perpetrated by the terrorist group Sendero Luminoso (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 115 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Fernando GUILLEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru
to the United Nations

* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

Information note concerning the massacre of the members of the Ashaninka community in the Peruvian Selva perpetrated by Sendero Luminoso

On the morning of 19 August 1993, a group of Sendero Luminoso terrorists murdered 55 members of the Ashaninka community living in settlements in the Mazamarí Valley, in the Province of Satípo, Department of Junín.

The dreadful consequences of the attack included the deaths of 55 defenceless men, women and children, while 11 others were left with serious wounds, third-degree burns, mutilated ears and other injuries, hundreds of children were orphaned, and dozens of families lost property in looting by the terrorists.

The Government and people of Peru strongly condemn this barbarous act. Immediate steps have been taken to investigate the episode and provide assistance for the victims.

In that connection, with the backing of the Ministry of Defence, the Human Rights Committee of the Constituent Congress, consisting of seven members selected on a multi-party basis, has visited the Mazamarí Valley and verified the details of the massacre perpetrated by the terrorist group Sendero Luminoso.

The Government has also taken urgent measures to ensure that the political and military authorities in the area immediately set up a field hospital and provide medicine, clothing and food for the wounded, orphans and other members of the indigenous community affected. In addition, it has stepped up its search for the terrorists responsible for this appalling massacre.

Ambassador Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, has appealed to all non-governmental human rights organizations to condemn the massacre in Peru's Central Selva and has asked those organizations to launch an international campaign to inform the world of the human rights violations committed by terrorist groups in Peru.